

The Sun.

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 1873.

Amusement To-day.
 Bowery Theatre—Lighting Rob.
 Wallack's Theatre—Mud.
 World's Museum—An Old Curio.

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"The Constitution says that all trials shall be by jury, and the accused is entitled, not to be first convicted by a jury, and then to be convicted by a jury, but to be convicted by a jury."

THE WASHINGTON RING IN WALL STREET.

In spite of all the exposures that have been made showing the hopelessly bankrupt condition of the District of Columbia, and the fact that the Ring has been unable to run it to the point of bankruptcy, the Ring have had the audacity to present themselves again in Wall Street with their worthless certificates of indebtedness as the basis of new loans. The net of Congress of May 8, 1872, explicitly limits the total debt to ten millions of dollars, as follows:

"That the debt of the District of Columbia, including the debt of the corporation, shall not exceed ten millions of dollars, and that no part of the same shall be used for any other purpose than the payment of the principal and interest of the same."

The Sinking Fund Commissioners who are charged with this matter have reported the funded debt alone to be \$9,220,710. Other debts have been incurred which are estimated at three or more millions, but the exact total of which can never be known without an investigation of the books, which are now concealed from public view. The Board of Public Works admit two millions as being due to contractors. It is safe to double that admission, taking their fabricated statements heretofore made as the basis of a calculation. Hence there can be no reasonable doubt that the limit fixed by Congress has been exceeded by several millions, without counting those recently piled on by the Ring Legislature.

Every dollar beyond that limit is illegal and void. At the very last session the delegate of the District, who is also the hired agent of the Ring, attempted on two different occasions to evade this law by bills to authorize the issue of certificates of indebtedness for two millions, under pretext of relieving the plundered taxpayers by extending the payment of special improvements which he had refused to recognize over five years in annual installments. Corrupt as that Congress was, and utterly venal as the committees notorious were who had to report on these propositions, they did not dare to recommend them, and both attempts completely failed.

Thus Congress reaffirmed the act of May, 1872, by expressly refusing to authorize the debt to be increased by the issue of such certificates. Yet in the face of this refusal, twice solemnly expressed, the Ring Legislature had the effrontery to disregard the law of Congress, and to go through the barren forms of passing a bill to issue these certificates. And upon that sort of security this Ring come to New York and ask for money. In addition to these two millions they also passed over three millions and a half of various certificates of indebtedness which have just as much value as the others—precisely none at all. In fact the owners of them are liable to criminal prosecution for obtaining money under false pretences. They know that, and yet they are not deterred by this. They are too wicked to be worthless, but to be expressly forbidden by act of Congress. By abusing the forms of legal legislation they enter into a conspiracy to defraud the public.

The Ring Legislature has thus, by its assumption of illegal power, added nearly six millions to the funded debt of the District of Columbia, which, with the other obligations that are known to exist, exceed the seventeen millions that the Chairman of its Committee of Ways and Means—such a modest and prudent man—has publicly declared to be the limit of the debt, from sure data in his possession. It thus appears that the scrip which is now unmercifully offered for sale here and elsewhere, at any price that it will fetch, is a deliberate attempt at swindling.

Nor is this its worst feature. There is every reason to believe that these certificates to a large amount have been forged and put upon the market. The first suspicion attaches to the Ring, because they have the greatest interest in hiding their rascality, and are quite capable of adopting such a mode to escape detection. Their own papers at Washington have mainly inspired this distrust. First they announced that the blank certificates had been obtained from the printer upon a forged order. Then that a person had been arrested in Philadelphia who was certainly the guilty offender. He was released. Then another arrest was made with equal confidence. And now this second man is a put-up job, and points directly to the Ring as the principals engaged in it. A moneyed institution that would invest in this fabricated paper ought not to receive the confidence of the community, or be tolerated by its stockholders. Any posture of such a transaction would run it hopelessly for aside from the bankrupt character of the scrip itself, which would condemn it, the money obtained from credulity or by imposition would be used to strengthen a corrupt combination, which is destitute of every redeeming quality and infamous to the last degree.

Recent events have closed the doors of Congress against the Ring. Although their allies will still be there, they dare not vote in their favor. They have no more exposure than the thieves, after the whole country. They must make a virtue of necessity, as some of them reluctantly did in returning the back pay which they had helped to steal. The outraged people of Washington, who have been robbed without redress and who are borne down by taxation, which Congress will withhold appropriations, which are duly appropriated or stolen for the benefit of an organized gang of plunderers, until reform can be achieved. In that way only will the Ring be crushed. Stop the supplies of money, and the motive of their existence will disappear. To do this effectually, however, the people who have suffered

most from this tyranny ought not to pay a cent of taxes of any kind. Refuse the means of subsistence and the Ring will scatter like hungry vultures after exhausting their last prey.

The West Waking Up.

The proceedings of the State Republican Convention of Minnesota, held in St. Paul on the 16th instant, indicate that the Republicans of the West are awakening to a sense of the ignominy which has been brought upon the party by the corruption of its leaders.

After alluding to the transportation question, and recommending legislation to protect the people from extortion and unjust discrimination on the part of railroad companies, the Convention in its fifth resolution refers to the late developments of fraud in Washington and demands "the punishment of unfaithful public men, State and national, who, having betrayed the confidence freely extended to them, shall not be shielded from the disgrace of their acts by any partisanship." The same resolution also denounces all Credit Mobilier transactions, whatever be their form.

The resolution on the back-pay robbery is in the following language:

"When retrenchment is required to lighten the burden of taxation and to expedite the reduction of public debt, an increase of salaries is wrong. We condemn without reserve the voting for retaining of pay for services already received, and demand that the provision of the Constitution be strictly enforced, and that the salaries be increased should be promptly and unreservedly rejected."

The philosophy of this resolution is comprehensive, and it finally includes the President in its censure, as not only was his salary increased, but it was in a great measure owing to his personal efforts that the general increase was effected.

The Convention also protested against the iniquitous favoritism shown to railroad companies by the Interior Department, and requested the Senators and Representatives from Minnesota to take action to secure as far as possible honest action from loss and injury.

The administration of Gov. Austin is endorsed in the warmest terms by the Convention, and the Attorney-General of the State highly complimented for the manner in which he has discharged his duties. But there is not in any of the resolutions the slightest reference to President Grant or his Administration, except indirectly in the condemnation of increased salaries, the Land Office Ring, and the prevailing corruption at the capital.

After adopting this platform the Convention proceeded to select a candidate for Governor. The officeholders' candidate was WILLIAM D. WASHBURN, whose name was presented by Mr. F. R. E. CORNELL in a speech in which he advocated for GRANT last fall when the GREELEY was high and menacing. Whereupon the Convention rejected Mr. WASHBURN and chose the Hon. C. K. DAVIS for its candidate.

Those who believe that the intelligent people of this country can long be used to sustain venality, corruption, and centralization, may study with profit the doings of this Convention.

Justice.

Gov. MANUEL QUESADA, once commander-in-chief of the liberating army in Cuba, and one of the heroes of our country, has been lately landed in Cuba the largest expedition of men and arms for the revolutionary cause ever taken to that island.

We would be glad to credit the statement, but require further proof than the assertion of Mr. QUESADA, especially as any exaggeration of the amount of resources supplied to the liberating army is not unjust to the officers and men composing it.

Mr. QUESADA was deposed from the rank of commander-in-chief of the liberating army because he demanded for himself personal services, and enable him to override all civil authority. Subsequent to this deposition he was foolishly intrusted by his brother-in-law, President CESPEDES, without the sanction or knowledge of the Cuban Congress, with a commission to raise men and money abroad for the Cuban revolution.

No living man has been so detrimental to the Cuban cause as this same QUESADA. On his arrival here from Cuba in March, 1870, he presented to the Cuban Junta in this city and published a statement that he had 670 Spanish prisoners of war. The following are the words of his report:

"A decree of once passed by the House of Representatives by which it was enacted that all the prisoners of war, and all those subsequently captured, should be released, and in compliance with this decree the 670 Spanish chiefs, officers, and soldiers were set free on the 10th of October, 1870."

Now this was untrue. QUESADA never had so many as one hundred prisoners of war in his hands. We believe he did shoot some few; but his ferocious exaggeration of the number of his victims was widely disseminated through this country by the press, and tended more than all the money and all the machinations of the enemies of Cuba in Congress and elsewhere to damp the sympathies of the American people for a cause whose commanding military officer could commit such an atrocity as he has thus confessed.

Gov. QUESADA collected a considerable amount of money here in 1870, nominally for the cause of Cuba. He stated everywhere publicly that his sole object was to return with men and arms to his beloved Cuba. Since that date he has never set foot on Cuban soil.

His appointment as joint confidential agent of the republic of Cuba abroad, with DON CARLOS CASTILLO and SOFOR GOYEN, was made by President CESPEDES on the GRANT plan of taking care of his relations and without the sanction or even the knowledge of the Cuban Congress.

astounding developments concerning Bismarck—Comprehensive Infidelity.

A correspondent of the World, writing from Berlin on June 29, relates what purports to have been a conversation between Bismarck, who is renowned Prince Bismarck, which will create a good deal of surprise throughout Christendom. In the course of the conversation Prince Bismarck not only avows himself an infidel unqualifiedly, but discloses the revolting fact that his scheme for strengthening the German Empire consists in "destroying the idea of God, and placing the Empire in His place!"

The correspondent quotes the following as the words of Bismarck:

"It is the light of the State—empire, monarchy, or republic—acquired God, and in this light the State will get the worst of it unless it succeeds in destroying the idea of God, and placing the State in His place. Now say that they must have something to worship—well, then, let them worship the State. Let it be all in all, let it take the place of the family as well as of the Deity; let it be the Deity."

The Prince, although filled with the idea that the permanency of the empire, or its

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